

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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HORNE ANNOUNCES ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVE NEARLY \$1 MILLION GRANT FOR ARTS EDUCATION

Funds will be used to integrate arts education with math, language and science courses

(PHOENIX) August 29, 2005 – State schools chief Tom Horne today announced that the Arizona Department of Education and Phoenix Union High School District have been awarded a grant of nearly \$1 million to be spent over a three year period to incorporate arts education into math, language and science courses at three district high schools.

The three high schools are Trevor Browne, Cesar Chavez, & Carl Hayden Community School.

“As a passionate advocate for the arts, I am very pleased that the Arizona Department of Education will be working with these schools to help integrate arts education into the core subjects of math, science and language,” Horne said.

“A rich-arts education is central to education of students. A student who has not learned deeper forms of beauty has not been given an education. An additional factor in my advocacy for the arts is the fact that students involved in the arts do better academically than other students,” Horne added. “I like to quote John Adams: ‘I study war and politics so that my children can study business and commerce, so that their children can study literature and the arts.’”

Dr. Raj Chopra, the Superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District said; "This is an opportunity to enhance the abilities of our art teachers, and in turn, impact our students, but we will also be contributing to improved art instruction statewide through a unique web portal that provides professional development. Articulation with feeder elementary schools in the project is also an important feature for our high schools.

We have integrated the arts into our core curricula through a different grant the past two years and we know that it gives students different ways of learning and knowing the standards that are required of them, and is another means of motivating students,” Chopra added.

The grant will focus on professional development for arts specialists at the three high schools and their feeder elementary schools. The focus of professional development will be on creating standards-based assessments in the arts and aligning the curriculum vertically from the elementary schools into the high school systems.

The exact amount of the grant is \$932,000 divided equally over a three year period.

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